



Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 15, 2022

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 585 in its entirety.

This bill would require public school district high schools, independent charter high schools, and private high schools participating in a parental choice program, to collect and submit to the Department of Public Instruction statistics on violations of municipal disorderly conduct ordinances and certain other crimes. This bill would also require the department to include the statistics on school and school district accountability reports, but the statistics would not be considered in the calculation of school or school district performance for purposes of the accountability reports.

As a former educator, principal, and state superintendent, I know what's best for our kids is what's best for our state, and that includes ensuring our kids are safe, healthy, and in the classroom. Student safety and security, especially at school, is critically important. This is among the reasons that, for years, public schools in Wisconsin have already been reporting on student behavior resulting in that student's suspensions and expulsion. However, I must veto this bill in its entirety for several reasons. First, I object to mandating additional reporting without the necessary funding for implementation. School districts, independent charter schools, and private schools participating in a parental choice program have differing levels of staffing, training, and resources at each high school related to incident and crime reporting. This disparate level of resources may lead to inconsistent reporting and may compromise the value of the data by not providing like comparisons. This problem could be further complicated by the fact that the definition of disorderly conduct is defined at the municipal level, which may lead to inconsistent reporting for school districts spanning multiple municipalities or counties.

I also object to this bill excluding local law enforcement agencies from the reporting process. High schools do not have the same access to the Summary-Based Reporting and Incident-Based Reporting systems, and subsequently the Wisconsin Incident-Based Reporting System, as local law enforcement agencies.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Evers".

Tony Evers
Governor